

**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**

*Complete if known*

Application Number: 09/887,789

Filing Date: June 22, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman et al

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

SHEET 1 OF 1

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1

**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
NOT CONSIDERED NO COPY TRANS.		659146	RU	04/30/1979	

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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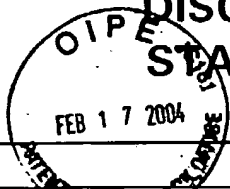
FEB 27 2004

**GROUP 3600**

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	5/24/04
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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SHEET 1 OF 2		RECEIVED FEB 23 2004 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700
Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1		

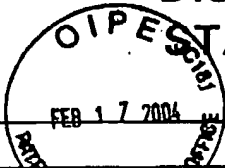
UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
LT		5,667,517	09/16/1997	Hooven
		5,954,259	09/21/1999	Viola
		5,868,760	09/09/1999	McGuckin
		5,653,374	08/05/1997	Young
		5,433,721	07/18/1995	Hooven
		6,165,169	10/12/2000	Panescu, et al.
		5,772,597	10/06/1998	Goldberger, et al.
		5,993,454	11/30/1999	Longo
NOT CONSIDERED	2	6,634,144	01/18/1995	Ethicon
LT		6,119,913	09/19/2000	Main, et al.
		5,529,235	6/25/1996	Boiarski, et al.
		5,609,560	03/11/1997	Ichikawa, et al.
		5,617,857	04/08/1997	Chader, et al.
		5,993,454	11/30/1999	Longo
		6,059,719	05/09/2000	Yamamoto, et al.
		6,434,507	08/13/2002	Clayton, et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
LT		99/58076	WO	11/18/1999	
LT		92/16141	WO	10/01/1992	
LT		2044108	GB	10/15/1990	
LT		0116220	EP	0/22/1984	

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	SHEET 2 OF 2	Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1

<i>LT</i> 		0156774	EP	10/02/1985	<b>RECEIVED</b> <b>FEB 23 2004</b> <b>TECHNOLOGY CENTER B3700</b>
		0399701	EP	11/28/1990	
		0552050	EP	07/21/1993	
		7711347	NL	04/19/1979	
		3300768	DE	07/19/1984	
		2180455	GB	04/01/1987	
		0216532	EP	04/01/1987	
		90/05491	WO	05/31/1990	
		0593920	EP	04/27/1994	
		0539762	EP	10/05/1992	
		0621006	EP	03/22/1994	
		93/08754	WO	05/13/1993	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS		
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